

THE LITTLE GUIDE
TO THE
PARISH CHURCH OF
ST MARY, NORTHIAM,
SUSSEX

Arthur S. Haynes

‘O rare Norgem thou dost far exceed Beckelie,
Pesemmarsh, Udimore, Drayton and Brede.’

First published, 1928

Arthur S. Haynes, who lived at Farthings,
Northiam, died in 1931. There is a stained glass
window dedicated to his memory in the church.

FOREWORD.

Deep down in the hearts of the great majority of the British people is planted the innate love of Tradition and of all that Tradition stands for ; and in no way is this interest in Tradition shown more clearly than in the habit which now is so universal of " going to look at the Church."

In this England we are privileged to possess thousands of Parish Churches which are not only centres of spiritual life up and down the country side, but also the centres of local history, customs and traditions.

The following notes on the History of the Parish Church of Saint Mary, Northiam, have been written for the guidance of those who may be interested in the tradition and development of Church architecture and history, and who, without the help of a scale plan and such historical data as are available, would find it a difficult and laborious task to trace the steps by which this original Early Norman Church has been gradually altered and enlarged to its present state.

Even the name of the village has passed through many changes and variations of spelling since the Norman Conquest, as the following list shows :—

Domesday Book, A.D. 1087, Hiham ; 1100, Iham, Ihamme, North Hiham ; 1262, Norgiam ; 1288, Northyamme ; 1538, Northyam ; 1580, Nordiham ; 1653, Norsham ; 1695, Nordium, Norgem.

It is one of the many churches in Sussex and Kent set " on high places," and it is possible, and even probable, that it took the place of a wooden Saxon church built on the site of an earlier pagan shrine, a holy stone, or a holy well.

When Domesday Book was compiled in A.D. 1087, there was no mention of any presbyter or church at " Iham," but this is no proof of non-existence. The only name on record is that of Hiham, the manor, held by the Earl of Ow, and previously by the Saxon Earl Godwine. The nearest villages with churches were Salhert (Salehurst), Selescome (Sedlescombe), Rameslie (Brede), Dodimere (Udimore), and Pleidenham (Playden).

A great part of Sussex and Kent consisted of more or less dense forest, and in the district of the Weald almost every local name for miles around terminated in " hurst," " ley," " den," or " field."

The "hursts" were the denser parts of the forest, the "leys" were the open glades where the cattle loved to lie, the "dens" were deep wooded valleys and usually swine pastures, and the "fields" little patches of "felled" or cleared lands.

The cottages were mostly clustered round the Manor Houses with common grazing land, and the only road through our village was merely a pack-horse trail.

There was little security of life or property, and even at that time the memories and stories of frequent raids by the Danish and Norse sea-wolves had not died away.

They used to sail up the estuary past Appledore, round the islands of Ebony and Oxney (the termination "ey" = island), and up the Rother Valley, trading sometimes, and raiding sometimes when the unlawful occasion presented itself. Consequently, the churches built before the 11th century were constructed to be used as places of refuge and able to withstand attack.

The walls were thick and the window openings high up, a suitable refuge for the women and children, while the men beat off the raiders. As time went on and law and order became more settled, churches were no longer built like fortress towers, and in the general security architecture developed. But for some hundreds of years later arms and armour were still stored in the parish churches, often in a chamber in the roof of the south porch.

Such, then, were the general conditions of life among the South Saxons when the church was built in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The original church was one of the usual Saxon and early Norman type, consisting of a nave without aisles and a square-ending chancel, as shown on the accompanying plan (No. 1). In perpetuating this type of church the Normans were carrying on the Celtic tradition of Saxon times in preference to the Italian, providing a plain nave without aisles for the people and, for the clerks, a small chancel (or, more properly, a Presbytery) attached to the east end, with only a small arch of communication between the two parts: a good example of which may be seen in the neighbouring church at Peasmarsh. The Roman type, on the other hand, had aisles and a railed-off chancel in the nave in front of an eastern apse.

TOWER.

Of the original post-Conquest Norman building the only portions still existing are the lower part of the Tower and the West wall. Particular attention should be directed to the dark-brown, coarse-grained iron sandstone which was used in the early construction, for it is a material rarely met with, but may be seen in Peasmarsh Church in the chancel arch, and also in Appledore Church.

Opinions have always differed as to whether the early part of the tower is Saxon or Norman ; it is probably Norman post-Conquest work, built by Saxon masons early in the 12th century.

The early form of buttress, like a shallow strip or pilaster, should be noted on both North and South sides of the tower, close to the West wall. They originally existed also on the two Western angles of the tower, but are now hidden from view by the great buttress and the octagonal turret which were added very late in the 15th century, when the tower was raised and, probably, the first bells installed.

A rudely-carved grotesque mask will be observed over one of the openings on the South side of the tower—a not uncommon feature of early Norman churches.

The masks were usually distorted and ugly, and were intended to frighten away wandering evil spirits. They are probably a relic of the Roman occupation, for masks of terracotta of similar character were often placed in Roman tombs for the same purpose. A number of these masks, found at Carthage, may be seen in the Tunis Museum.

The West window was probably inserted at the same date as the great buttress, and the present doorway in place of the original Norman one. It is easy to realise how completely the Norman character of the tower was changed by these 15th century alterations.

The spire, one of the four stone spires in Sussex, was erected very early in the 16th century, for Thomas Halle, in his will dated 1505, speaks of the "new fabric" in connection with the "steeple of Northyam newly built," and leaves money for the pointing of the same. It was raised 10 feet in 1860.

Passing into the church by the West door one realises at once that it requires a very vivid imagination to visualise the original building, a bare, featureless stone-built hall, with open timber roof thatched with reeds, rather dark, for what

windows there were high up, a stone floor probably none too clean, for the nave was frequently used for all kinds of secular purposes, markets at intervals, meetings, a rallying point in times of danger, and even sometimes used as a shelter for sheep and swine in very bad weather. The little Presbytery screened off for the use of the priest, lit by narrow lancet windows, one of which is shewn on Plate 2, with a priest's door, sedilia and piscina, all on the South side.

So it remained for about 200 years.

SOUTH AISLE *Circa* A.D. 1325.

Early in the 14th century it was decided to follow the new fashion and build a Lady Chapel on the South side of this somewhat dismal church. The South wall was taken down and columns and arches substituted to carry the roof, and what we call the South aisle was added with an altar and piscina at the East end, and three windows in the South wall, as well as a low-side window close up to the Lady Chapel Altar.

The exterior face of the West wall of the church affords clear evidence that the aisles were additions to the aisle-less nave of the earlier building, for there are plainly visible the vertical joints formed by the quoins of the original nave, the walls of which stood on the lines of the present nave arcades (see Plate 4). It should here be noted that, while in the case of cathedrals or important churches it is usually not difficult to assign comparatively accurate dates to architectural features such as mouldings of arches, caps, bases, door and window jambs, etc., yet in the case of small churches remote from important monastic centres and great church designers and the latest development of details, and, moreover, handicapped by inexperienced workmen, it is not advisable to dogmatise about dates or apparent mixture of styles. The added South and North aisles of our church are a case in point.

In the South aisle, undoubtedly built first, the caps and bases of the arcade are what might be termed rude and early 13th century work, while in the North aisle they are distinctly later, but still 13th century work, being more refined in profile and with some undercutting. But in the case of both aisles the character of the windows is considerably later than the arcade caps and bases, those in the south aisle being 14th century (Decorated) and in the North aisle early 15th century with the first suggestions of Perpendicular work.

It may be that the caps and bases of the South aisle were worked by local masons on the spot to the best of their ability, and that the windows were obtained from France or elsewhere in England, according to the latest design in fashion at the time, and sent ready for fixing, and exactly the same procedure followed in the case of the North aisle some fifty to seventy-five years later. This would account for the later style of the windows in each case, and in spite of the 13th century arcade caps and bases, would fix the date of the South aisle at about A.D. 1325, and the North aisle about A.D. 1400.

SOUTH AISLE ROOF.

The South aisle was roofed as a lean-to against the clerestory wall, in which, from the outside, can be seen two walled-up spaces which formerly were square-headed two-light windows used so freely in the South side of the church (five in aisle and two or more in the chancel).

NORTH AISLE ROOF.

When the North aisle was added, about A.D. 1400, no provision was made for clerestory windows, and the nave roof was carried down to the aisle plate, as may be seen on Plate No. 3. The Dormer window was inserted at a later date.

It has already been said that the East end of South aisle was dedicated as a Lady Chapel with an altar under a two-light window (see Plate 2). The partially-concealed piscina can still be seen, and there is a low-side window now blocked up but visible on the outside of the wall. These openings were for the ringing of the Sanctus Bell at the solemn periods of the Mass by the altar-clerk, before sanctus bell-cotes on the nave gable came into use. The shutter that closed the unglazed aperture would be opened in order that the sound of the hand-bell rung thereat might warn those outside of the Holy Mysteries, so that they might "bend the knee."

It was formerly thought that the Lady Chapel was later used as a Chantry by the Sharp family of Domons, of whom there are two small inscription brasses :

1. *Trans.* :—Pray for the soul of Richard Sharp gentleman who died the 10th day of the month of April in the year of our Lord 1553 on whose soul may God have mercy.

2. Here lyeth the body of John Sharp of Northiam gentilman which married Alyce Odyerne and had issue by her vi sonnes and vii daughters and deceased the viii daye of April 1583.

When these brasses, having become loose, were taken down and refixed it was found that they were "palimpsests," i.e., portions of old brasses utilized by turning them face downwards and engraving the present inscriptions on the original underside. One was originally that of a London citizen, Thomas Hastynges of the Parish of St. Mary Magdalen, Old Fish Street, London, Fishmonger, whose will is recorded on page 6 of the Adene register of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. It can be seen at Somerset House. The other piece referred to is a fragment of a Flemish Brass to a member of the Van Cleyham Family, date about 1480.

The "Holman" or "Homan" Hatchment, now on the South wall of nave, used to hang in this chapel. The Holmans (vert a chevron or between 3 pheons argent for Homan) married into the Sharp family. As all Chantreys were given up to the Sovereign in 1545, and the earliest parish record of the Sharps is in 1535, when Richard Sharp married Alice, daughter of Nicholas Tufton, there is probably no ground for the supposition that the Sharps possessed any chantry.

THE TWO ARCHBISHOPS.

Of the Bradford branch of this family, however, was Archbishop Sharp, the 75th Archbishop of York, who was born 1644, enthroned 1691, and died 1714. It is a remarkable coincidence that within the space of thirty years—1660-1691—there should have been two Archbishops of York connected with the village of Northiam :

1. Accepted Frewen, son of John Frewen, rector of Northiam ;
 2. John Sharp, a member of the Bradford family of Sharp, allied to the Sharps of Domons Northiam ;
- and, further, that elaborate monuments should have been erected in their memory, the one on the north side and the other on the South side of the altar in the Lady Chapel of York Minster, under the greatest masterpiece of stained glass that the world has ever seen.

CLOCK WEIGHTS CASING.

The pierced wooden casing against the West wall of nave was provided in the 19th century to protect the clock weights.

CHAPEL OF ST. NICHOLAS.

In the 14th and 15th centuries there was on the North side of the chancel (see plan No. 3) a chantry dedicated to St.

Nicholas and belonging to the ancient Tufton family, of Tufton Place in this parish.

The Tufton family can be traced back to the reign of Richard I, and there is mention in an undated Tufton deed of the time of King John of the yearly rent of certain land near Meredale being fixed at eighteen pence, two hens, and twenty-five eggs.

In 1362 Simon de Toketon (Tufton) was witness to a deed executed at Northiam, and he was great-grandfather to Nicholas Tufton, probably the founder of this chantry, who died in 1538, and from whom was descended the first Earl of Thanet, who died 1679. The family lived at Tufton Place from the 14th century till 1567, when they removed to Hothfield. Some members of the family are buried in Hothfield Church and some in Westminster Abbey (near a street, Little Tufton Street, which still bears their name), but the greater number of Tuftons between 1628 and 1800, including nine Earls of Thanet and six Countesses, appear to have been interred at Rainham, Kent.

"The Chantry" (as Thomas Frewen recorded in 1844) "had a door opening into the chancel, a window of one light "with a trefoliated equilateral arch (*sic*) on the East wall, a "piscina in its South wall, and an old brass figure (loose) of "Nicholas (since lost) represented in Grose's Antiquities, "Vol. I."

The brass referred to above is now in the floor of the chancel (see Plate No. 1), and represents the figure of Nicholas Tufton, who died in 1538, and in his will, dated January 2nd of the same year, "ordered his body to be buried in the Church of "the Blessed Virgin of Northiam, before the altar of Saint "Nicholas, and that a stone be laid over him with his picture "thereon and an inscription." In the opinion of the writer of these notes the inscription which is now below the figure is not the original, but of later date. In 1777, when Burrell visited the church, he mentioned a brass torn from a gravestone and preserved by the "clarke," with the Nicholas Tufton inscription.

A few years ago a brass inscription strip, together with a fragment of a second, was presented to the Rev. A. Frewen Aylward by an unknown donor, who had found them in a curiosity shop in Bexhill.

These may be found on the right side of the East window in the South wall.

A careful examination of the lettering of this inscription, particularly of the capital letters, suggests that this is the original belonging to the Tufton brass mentioned by Burrell as loose, and that it was lost, and the one now below the figure was made to take its place. The small fragment with precisely similar lettering would appear to be in memory of Margaret, daughter and heir of John Hever, of Cranbrook, Kent, and the wife of Nicholas Tufton "armiger," with date of death 15— (incomplete).

FREWEN VAULTS.

After the Reformation this chantry was utilised as a vestry, and it was under this vestry that Alderman Stephen Frewen, of London, constructed the first Frewen vault, in the reign of Charles II, the first interment taking place in 1679. The vault measured 10 feet long by 5 feet wide, and was filled with coffins in 1738, when his son, Thomas Frewen, obtained a faculty from Bishop Hare, in 1739, to make the second and more Westerly vault, measuring 13 feet by 12 feet, with an entrance with steps down from the church yard and a railing and iron gate. About the year 1786 John Frewen Turner found that the gates were broken down and that children used to dare each other to run down among the coffins, and that smugglers used the vault for concealing contraband goods; he removed the iron gates and bricked up the entrance. These gates are now on the terrace at the South end of Brickwall Gardens.

ENLARGEMENT OF CHURCH BY SMIRKE.

From the end of the 15th century the Church of St. Mary was allowed to remain undisturbed by structural alterations until the year of 1834, when a movement was set on foot to increase the seating accommodation. In the appeal for funds, issued in 1834, attention is drawn to the fact that a large portion of the population constantly attended the services of the two Dissenting places of worship recently established—Unitarian and Wesleyan—and those responsible for drawing up the appeal appear to have assumed that the success of the Non-conformist Movement was due to the inadequate seating accommodation in the Parish Church.

The work eventually was put into the hands of a London architect, Sydney Smirke, who thoroughly succeeded in destroying, as far as was possible, the simple beauty and dignity

of the East end of the old parish church, and has well earned a place on the list of the Vandal architects of the early Victorian age.

It does not come within the province of this little book to enter into useless criticism, and the reader is recommended to waste no time in any examination of this unnecessary and disastrous addition. The Pulpit was placed abreast of the column on which hangs the picture of the Blessed Virgin, and was moved to its present position when the new pews were made in the 'seventies.

Externally the church suffered as much as internally. The roofs were altered and hideous slates substituted for the tiles which had replaced the old oak shingles. Only those who are responsible for the church repairs can say how unsatisfactory and expensive the altered roofs and the porous sandstone of the walls and parapets have proved to be.

THE FREWEN MAUSOLEUM.

Two years after Mr. Thomas Frewen made his careful report on the condition of the Frewen vaults, to which reference has been made, he obtained a faculty to cover the vaults with a mausoleum, which was designed and carried out in 1845. The faculty was peculiar in that it exempted the mausoleum entirely from Ecclesiastical jurisdiction. It was designed by Sidney Smirke, in the Perpendicular or 15th century period of Gothic architecture, but, like the work done nine years earlier, it was constructed of a stone entirely unsuitable for the purpose, and without any weather-resisting qualities. The consequence is that in spite of continual attention, the elaborate carved work in the inscriptions, coats of arms, and other external ornaments are gradually crumbling away and becoming undecipherable.

On the East side of the exterior are nine shields bearing the arms of Homan, Carus Wilson, Townsend, Stevens, Faceby, Talbot, Godschall, Wymondsold, Greene; and on the West side nine other shields with the arms of heiresses now quartered in the Frewen coat-of-arms, *viz.*, Scott, Congerhurst, Wolverstone, Laton, Frewen, Linley, Turner, Clarke, Hay.

In the frieze above is the following inscription, now partly illegible:

"Conditorium intimum sub hac aede nepotum ossibus jam diu plenum fuit exstructum a Stephano Frewen de Brick-wall regnante Carolo Secundo. Externum tam et majus

condidit Thomas Frewen A.D. MDCCXXXIX Hoc cancellarius aedificavi ego Thomas Frewen MDCCCXLV."

This mausoleum is not open to the public, but if any visitor desires a full and complete account of the memorial tablets, heraldic arms, and various inscriptions, he should consult a *History of Brickwall in Sussex, and of the Parishes of Northiam and Brede*, by Miss A. L. Frewen, Geo. Allen & Sons, 1909, and *Coats of Arms in Sussex Churches* (Fane Lambard) S.A.C., Vols. 67, 68.

Brief list of wall tablets, etc. :—

Arms of the Scott family, with inscription in memory of Thos. Scott, of Goteley, and his descendants.

Mary Frewen, died at Brickwall 1811.

Thomas Frewen, died 1738.

Thomas Frewen, died 1702.

Sir Edward Frewen, Knt., died 1723.

Dame Selina Frewen, died 1723.

Frances Frewen, died 1869.

Elizabeth Clarke, died 1846.

Ann Frewen, died 1844.

Laton Frewen, died 1856.

Thomas Frewen, died 1870; builder of the mausoleum.

Helen Louisa Frewen, died 1901.

Richard Frewen, died 1896.

THE BEUFORD BRASS. (Plate 1.)

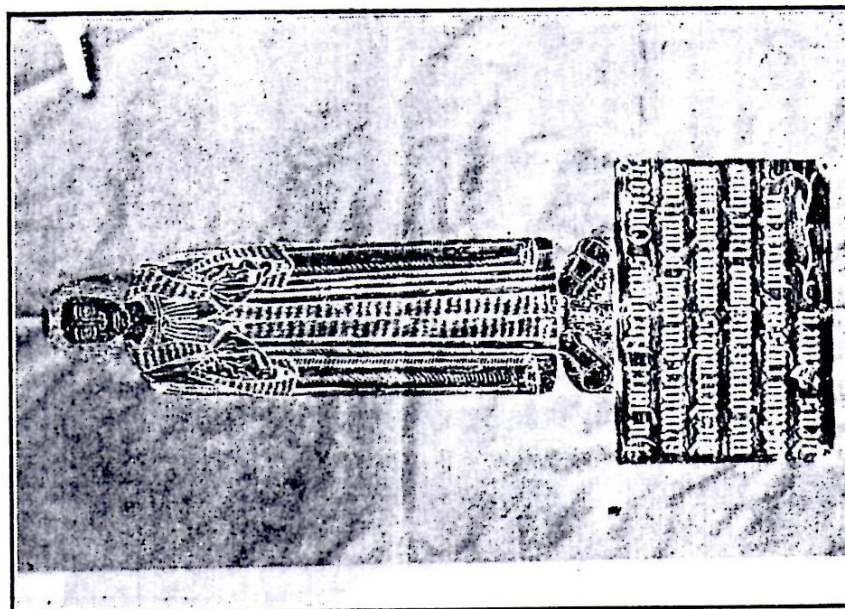
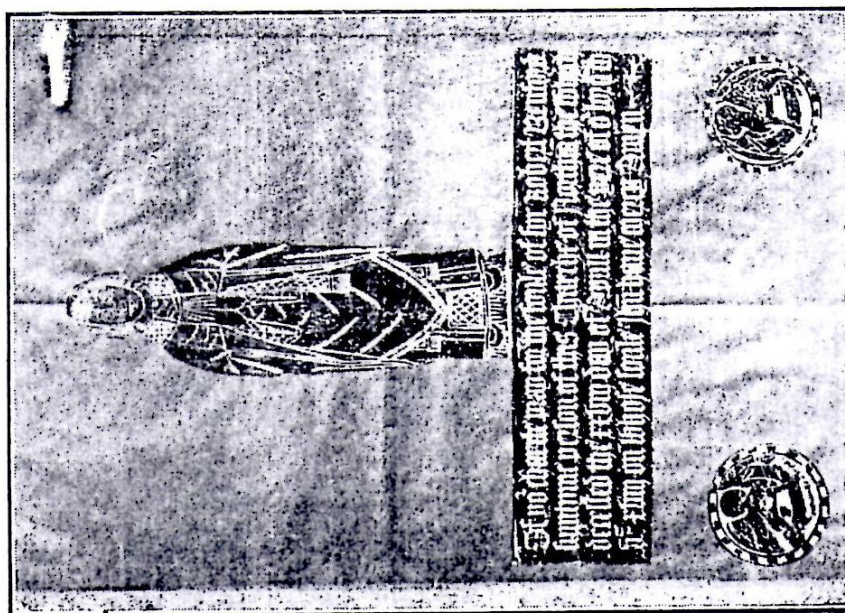
The earliest memorial in the church is a brass now in the floor of the chancel of Sir Robert Beuford, rector in in the pre-Reformation, full Eucharist vestments, *viz.*, amice ornamented chasuble over an alb (a close-fitting surplice) with a stole, and also a maniple hanging from his left arm. Inscription :—"of yō. charite pray for the soule of Syr Robert Beuford, sumtyme person of this church of Northiā, the which decessed the 28 day of Aprill in the yere of our Lord 1518 on whose soule Jhu have mercy. Amen."

The two small brasses at the lower corners of the stone slab represent emblems of two of the evangelists, *viz.*, St. Luke and, probably, St. Mark.

GALLERIES.

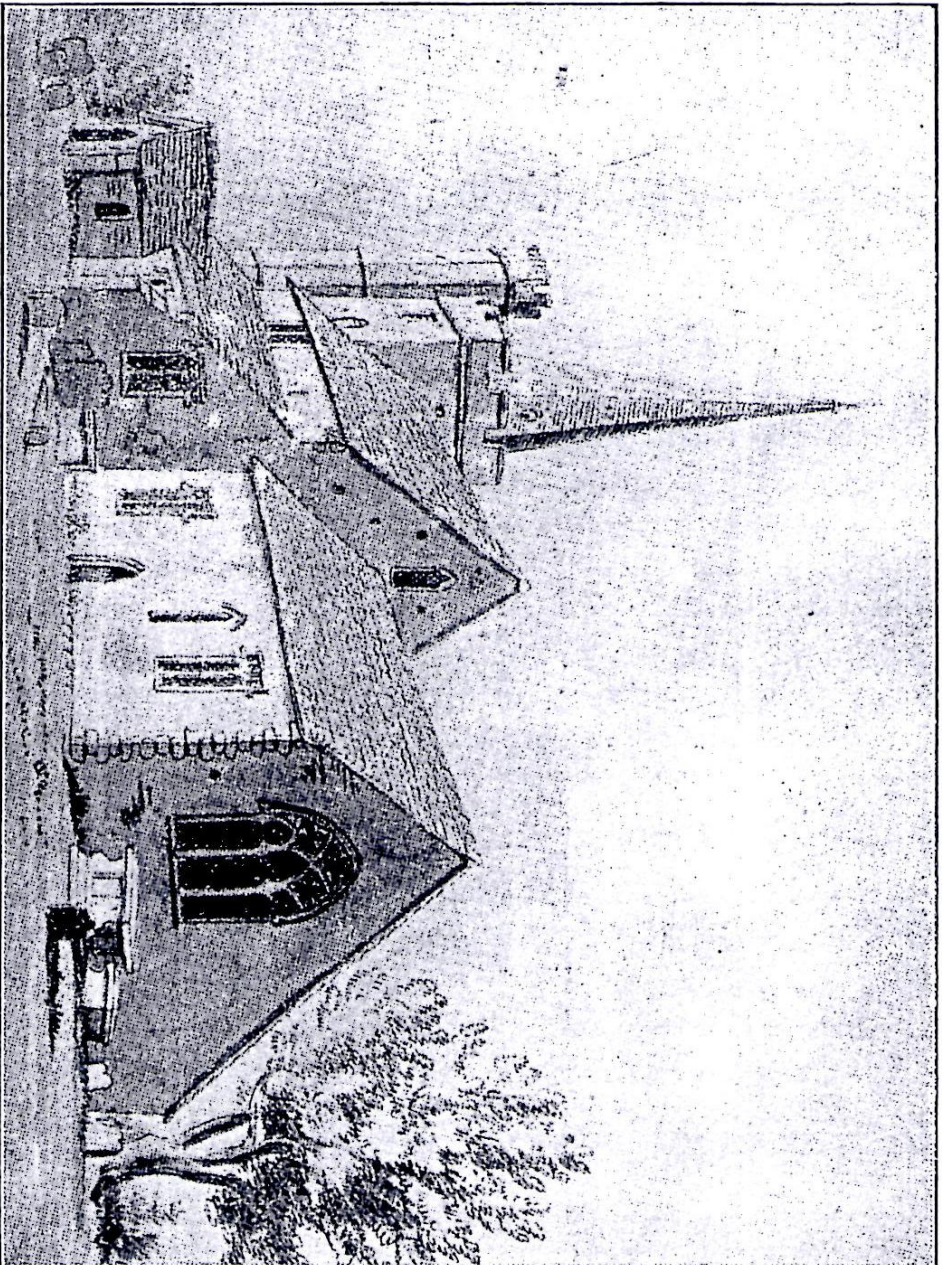
The two galleries, one in the South aisle and the other at the West end, which were erected in 1783, were both removed at the last "restoration," in the 'seventies.

Plate No. 1.



Brasses of Sir Robert Beuford and Nicholas Tufton.

Plate No. 2.



St. Mary's, about 1750. South Side, shewing the original Chancel with Priest's Door and East Window of Lady Chapel in South Aisle.

Plan No 1

Shewing the Church as originally built about 1100-1150 with low tower, Nave and Presbytery all of iron sandstone, with window openings high up, and as it remained during the reigns of

Stephen	1135	
Henry II.	1154	
Richard I	1189	
John	1199	
Henry III	1216	
Edward I	1272	Hugh de Wengrave 1287
Edward II	1307	Jordan Morande 1303
		Robert de Endredeby 1318.

Priests.

about 200 years

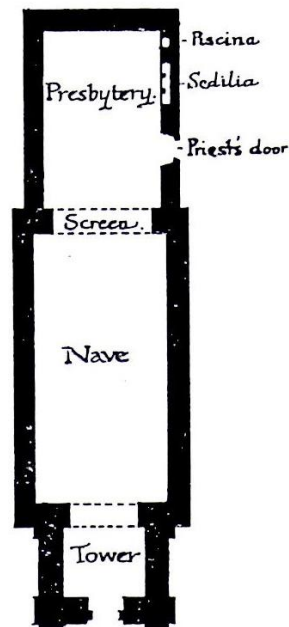
Plan No 2

Shewing the New South Aisle built about 1320 and used as a Lady Chapel. The Church remained like this during the reigns of —

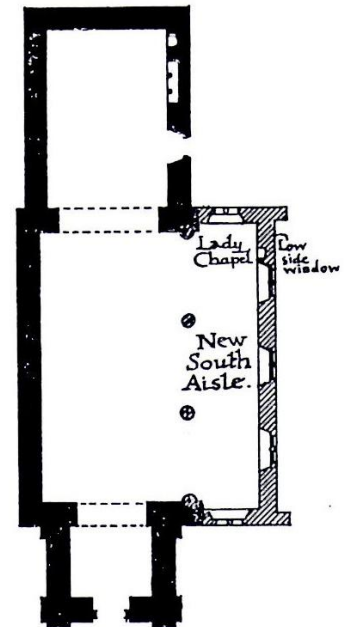
Edward III	1327	John Hawkberst	1375
Richard II	1377	Philip Garton	1390
Henry IV.	1399	Richard Tapcliff	1403
Henry V	1413	Richard Passemere	1408
		Richard Barba	1408
		Robert Guyer	1416
		John Goyland	1417

Priests.

about 100 years.



CIRCA 1100-1150 AD



CIRCA 1320 AD

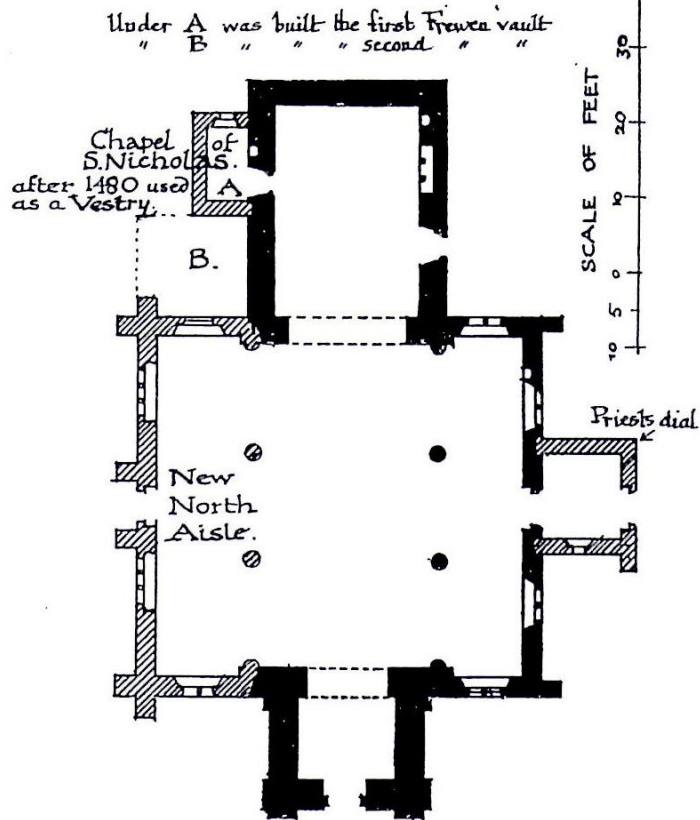
Plan No 3.

Shewing the new North Aisle built about 1425. The Chapel of S. Nicholas and the South Porch were probably added somewhat earlier. The Church remained in this form during the Reigns of

Henry VI 1422	Hamo Offington	1426
Edward IV 1461	Thomas Brown	1426
	William Pene	1441
	William Suthby	1441
	William Holman	1445
	John Wright	1481
Edward V. 1483	Thomas Jolyff	1481
Richard III 1483	John Idell	1482
Henry VII 1485	Sir Robert Beuford	1498

In 1504 the alterations were made to the Tower as shewn on Plan No 4. The spire was erected. Bells were hung and the necessary Turret, Staircase and large Buttress built to strengthen the tower walls. From 1505 to 1837 the structure of the Church remained unchanged, a period of 333 years.

The names of the Post Reformation Rectors will be found on page of Guide.

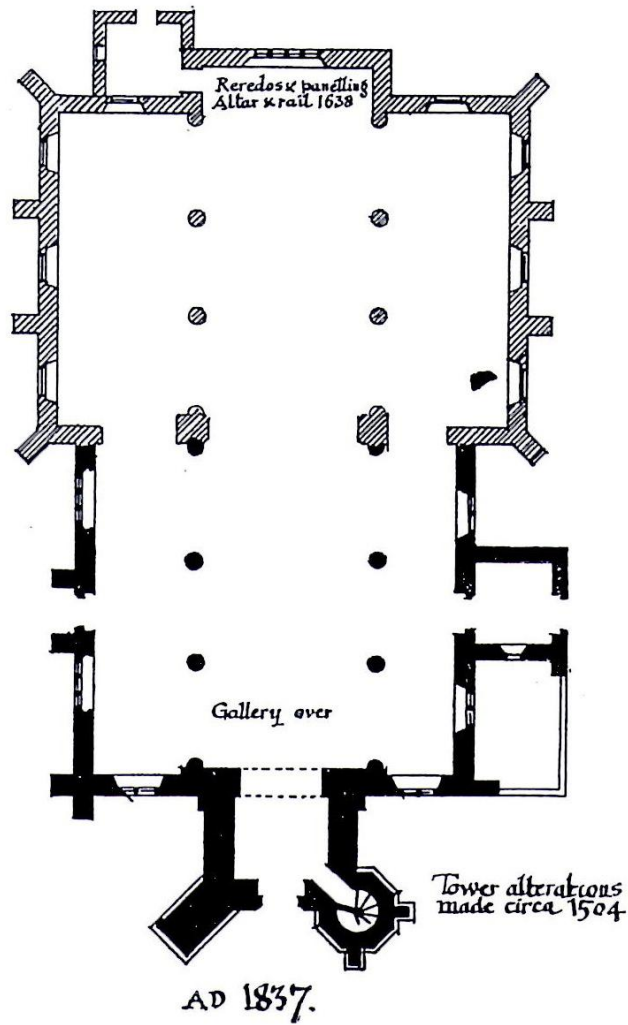


CIRCA 1425 AD.

NOTE—Line twenty-two—read page 19.
Chapel of S. Nicholas—for 1480 read 1580.

Plan 4.

Shewing how in AD 1837 the old Chancel with its Piscina and Sedilia as well as the Chapel of S Nicholas, were swept away to make room for the new Chancel with its North and South Aisles.



Plan 5

Shewing the new Frewen Mausoleum-
and Tombstones in Chancel floor.

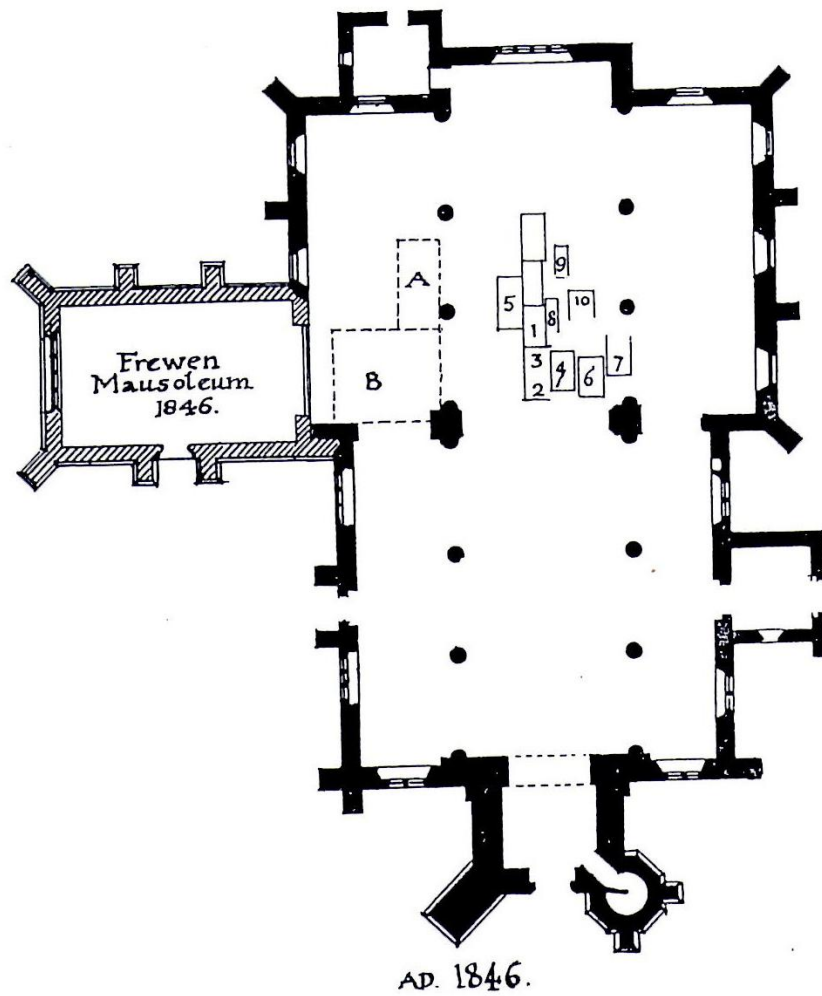
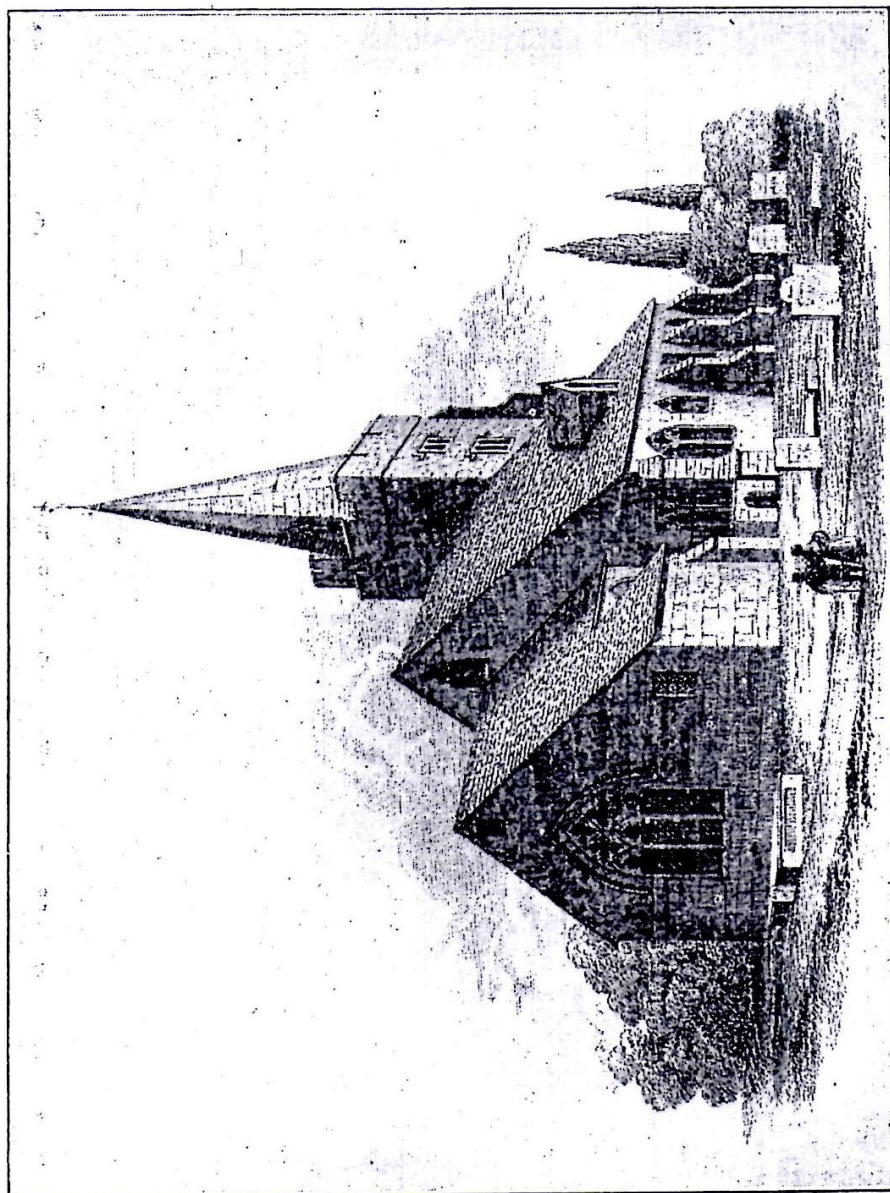
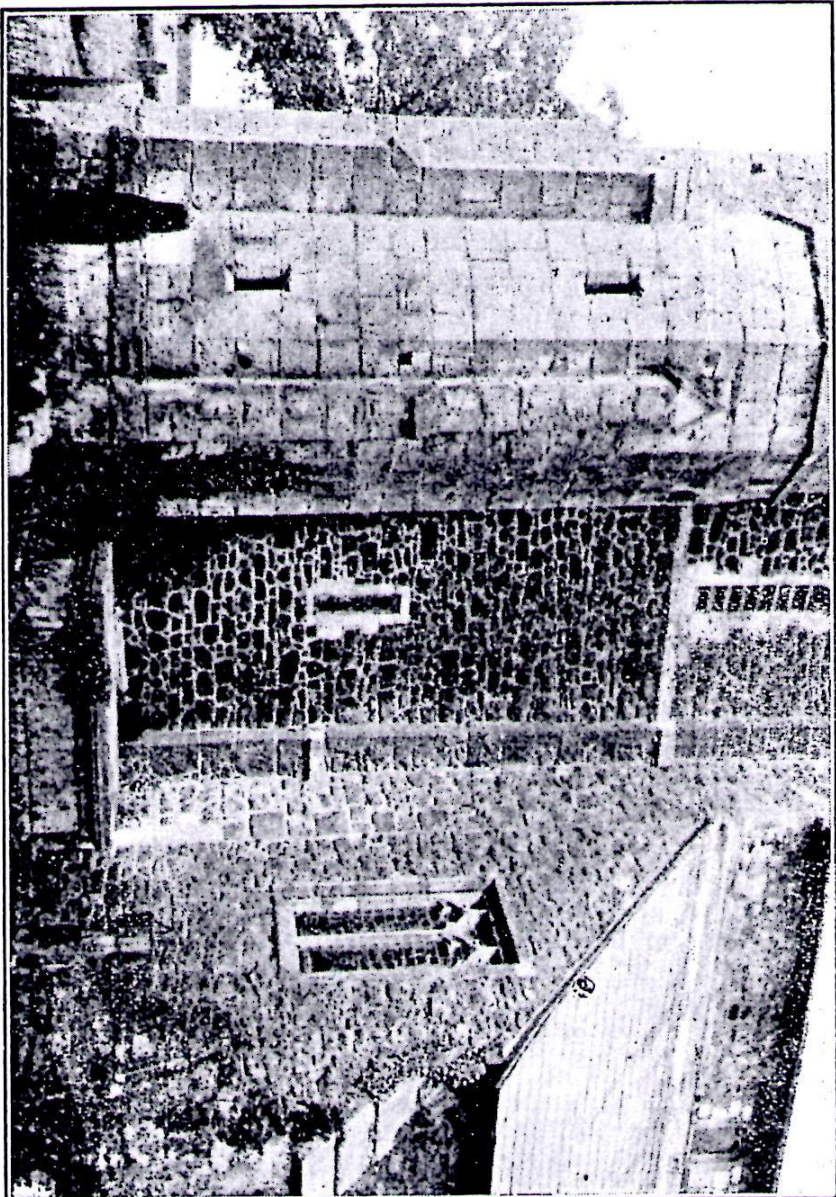


Plate No. 3.



St. Mary's, about 1750, North Side, shewing St. Nicholas Chantry, the entrance to the Frewen Vault, and the Dormer Window in Roof.

Plate No. 4.



View of West End, shewing early 12th Century Stonework of Tower, early 14th Century South Aisle and late 15th Century Stair Turret.

ORGANS.

Before their destruction the Western Gallery contained two organs, a little one with the inscription: "The gift of Mary Frewen of Brickwall," which were superseded by the fine one now in use, and presented by Mrs. William Lord, the wife of Dr. W. E. Lord, Rector from 1836 to 1856.

ALTAR.

The beautifully-carved Carolean oaken altar table bears initials and date T.F. 1638, and was probably the gift of Thankful Frewen (d. 1656), son of Rev. John Frewen, rector.

The altar rails and panelled wall screen appear to be about the same date.

CANDELABRUM.

The fine brass candelabrum of twelve lights which hangs in the chancel has engraved on it the Frewen arms, and "Ex dono C. Frewen, 1727."

HATCHMENT IN CHANCEL.

Frewen: impaling:

Per pale azure and sable three fleur-de-lis or for Jenkins.

The following are the principal tombstones in the church, on the floor of the chancel, numbered on Plan No. 4:—

No. 1 ON PLAN. JOHN FREWEN, Ob. 1628.

H.S.E. Inter suos Northiamenses Johannes Frewen hujus-ce Ecclesiae Per dimidium pene Saeculi Rector Ecclesiae Anglicanae Contra Pontificios Vindex Acerrimus Ut plurima ipsius opera Saepius Typis mandata abunde testantur. Obiit Anno Aerae Christianae MDCXXVIII.

TRANSLATION.

Here lies buried among his parishioners of Northiam John Frewen, rector of this church for nearly half a century, a most active champion of the English Church against the Papists, as many of his works which have often been printed abundantly testify. He died in the year 1628 of the Christian era.

No. 2. THANKFUL FREWEN, ob. 1656.

In memory of Thankful Frewen, Esq., patron of and a generous benefactor of this church, who was many years Purse Bearer and afterwards Secretary to Lord Keeper Coventry in the Reign of K. Charles the First. Dying unmarried at London, Nov. 30, A.D. 1656, in the 65th year of his age. He was buried here on the 9th December following, resting in hope of a joyful Resurrection at the last day.

No. 3 JOHN FREWEN, ob. 1653. (On the same stone).

Also of John Frewen, Clerk (brother of the said Thomas Frewen). He died and was buried at Northiam January 27, A.D. 1653, aged 58. He succeeded his father in the rectory of Northiam in 1628. He married April 15th, A.D. 1623, Dorothy, daughter and co-heir of Thomas Scott of Goteley, in this parish, and of Delmynden in Hawkhurst. She died Jan. 1st, and was buried the 6th A.D. 1657, aged 55. They left issue John Frewen, M.D.,—Mary, wife of John Sharpe of Tenterden, Kent; Thomas Frewen, rector of Northiam; William Frewen, citizen of London; and Samuel Frewen.

No. 4. THOMAS FREWEN, ob. 1676.

Thomas Frewen, Rector from 1652-1676.

Hic requiescit in spe felicitis resurrectionis Thomas Frewen, Johann Fil Johann Nat, hujusce ecclesiae de Northiam (cui integro pene seculo praefuerunt) post avum patremque Rector. Obiit 25 Januar: A.D. 1676-7 aetatis suae 47. Maria uxor maestissima maerens posuit. Resurgam.

TRANSLATION.

Here rests in hope of a joyful resurrection Thomas Frewen, whose father was John, son of John, rector of this church of Northiam (of which they were in charge nearly a whole century) after his grandfather and father. He died January 25th, 1676-7, aged 47. His mourning wife Mary, in her deep grief, placed this here. "I shall rise again."

No. 5: THANKFUL FREWEN, ob. 1749.

Thankful Frewen, rector from 1692-1749, and Sarah his wife. The Frewen arms are inscribed at the head of this stone.

Hic situs est Vir vere Reverendus Thankful Frewen, hujus Ecclesiae (post patrem avumque proavumque) per 56 annos Rector. Sanctissimus et Doctissimus, Pietatis erga Deum, Amoris erga suos et proximos, atque Charitatis erga Egenos perillustre exemplum. Munere ad amussim praestando, literaria opera et Annis confectus obiit 2 do Septembris 1749, anno aetatis 81 mo. Etiam hic depositae sunt reliquiae Sarae Conjugis Charissimae Filiae Lucae Spencer de Cranbrook Generosi, Quae obiit 4to August 1734 anno aetatis suae 62 do.

TRANSLATION.

Here lies buried the truly Reverend Thankful Frewen, the very holy and learned rector of this church (after his father

and grandfather and great-grandfather) for 56 years ; a most conspicuous pattern of piety towards God, of love towards his friends and relations, of charity to the needy. Worn out by the faithful discharge of his duties, by his literary labours and years, he died September 2nd, 1749, in the 81st year of his age.

There are also laid here the remains of Sarah, his beloved wife, the daughter of Luke Spencer, of Cranbrook, gentleman, who died August 4th, 1734, in the 62nd year of her age.

(It will be seen that this Thankful Frewen was only eight or nine years old when his father Thomas Frewen died. Evidently George Barnsley (rector 1676-1692) was put into the living till Thankful Frewen was old enough to be ordained).

No. 6. MARY FREWEN, ob. 1721.

Mary, wife (1) of Thomas Frewen, rector of Northiam (and mother of Thankful Frewen) ; (2) of Richard Seamer, Rector of East Guildford. One corner of this stone is covered by the present pulpit ; but the Latin words of this part that can be seen (. . . .Maritossenectutis decursum plus quam XXII Viduitatem) evidently refer to her being buried between her two husbands, her age and her widowhood of 22 years. Then the inscription proceeds :—*hic conquiescere voluit Lectissima Faemina, Marie Seamer ex antiqua Everendorum in Agro Sussexiensi prosapia oriunda : vivere desiit semper victura, nono die Januarii, A.D. MDCCXXI aetatis suae lxxvi. Hoc quaecunq; Monumentum Debitae. Observantiae ergo Posteris P.C.*

TRANSLATION.

Here that rare woman Mary Seamer descended from the ancient family of the Everendens, in the county of Sussex, wished to rest ; she ceased to live only to live for ever on January 9th, 1721, in the 76th year of her age. Her descendants had this memorial, such as it is, placed here in token of the regard they owed her.

No. 7. RICHARD SEAMER, ob. 1699.

Richard Seamer, rector of East Guildford (or Guldeford), married Mary, widow of Thomas Frewen, Rector of Northiam. The greater part of this stone is covered by the choir stalls, but it was found when they were removed that the words on the north side of the stone had been worn away by the feet of the worshippers in the chancel, so that all that can be deciphered is : *H.S.E. Richardus Seamer, A.M. Ecclesiae de*

East Guildford non priedem Rector. Obiit 27 o
die Maii Anno D. MDCXCIX (?) anno aetatis Maria
Uxor pia hoc Monumentum D

TRANSLATION.

Here lies (the body of) Richard Seamer, M.A., for some time rector of the Church of East Guildford. He died the 27th May, A.D. 1699, in the . . . year of his age. His dutiful wife Mary (dedicated) this memorial.

No. 8. MATHEW HOLMAN, ob. 1668.

Here lies interred the body of Mathew Holman, late of Hawkhurst, son of Richard Holman, of this parish, who was buried January ye 12th, 1668, aetatis suae 38, leaving issue by Frances his wife 2 sons and 2 daughters, viz., John and Richard, Sarah and Frances.

No. 9. THE WIFE AND DAUGHTER
OF THE ABOVE.

Here lies alsoe Frances his daughter who was buried February the 10th 1674 aetatis suae 8 years. Here lies alsoe Frances his wife who was buried January the 5th 1704 aetatis suae 69. Memento mori (remember you must die).

No. 10. JOHN HOLMAN, ob. 1736 AND FAMILY.

Entirely hidden by the choir stalls on the South is a tombstone in a splendid state of preservation. At the top is a fine coat-of-arms in the lower part of which is the crest of the Holman Family. The inscription runs :—Here lieth ye Body of John Holman, Esq., late of Bores Isle in Tenterden, Kent, who died ye 22nd d of October 1736 aged 72 and left issue Ann, Sarah, Mary, Frances, John, Elizabeth and Rebeckah.

Elizabeth here buried died ye 28th of June 1737 aged 32 years. Also Anne Holman, who died March 21st 1763 aged 71 years. Also Frances Holman who died June 11th 1774 aged 75 years. Also Rebeckah Holman who died November 24th 1778 aged 68 years.

The last three words only are now visible.

STEPHEN ODIARNE, ob. 1733.

On a gravestone in the nave in 1777 was this inscription :—

Here lyeth interred the body of Stephen Odiarne of this parish, gent : he married Jane dau of John Sharpe, gent., late of this parish by whom he had issue 4 sons and 6 daughters. He departed this life 9th December 1733 aged 55.

JAMES COLLINS, ob. 1838.

On a tablet on the South wall of the sanctuary (translation from Latin) :

Here rests in peace the Rev. James Collins, Rector of the Church of Thorpe Abbots in Suffolk. In good health he offered the Cup of the Lord in the morning ; in good health he offered the prayers of the people in the afternoon ; struck down in the evening, he welcomed the Angel of Death, and died a few days afterwards. He died January 20, 1838, in the 57th year of his age. Oh, ye who gaze on this, remind yourselves with how swift and silent a step Death comes, and be always waiting for the coming of the Lord.

OLD STAINED GLASS.

The only old glass in the church will be found in the windows of the North aisle. Though small in quantity it is of extraordinary interest, recalling as it does some of the most enthralling episodes in English history.

Eastern window. Two achievements.

Above : Gules a lion rampant argent within a border vert charged with eight escallops or—for *Oxenbridge* impaling. Quarterly of four—for *Blount*.

1. Argent two wolves sable a border or charged with saltires gules—for *Ayala*.

2. Or a tower triple-towered azure—for *Sanchez*.

3. Blank (filled with odd fragments. The grotesque figure of an animal with musical instrument has nothing whatever to do with the achievement).

4. Vair—for *Beauchamp of Hache*.

Below : blank impaling

Blount quarterly of four as above.

"Vair"—Skin of the squirrel, bluish grey on the back and white on the belly, represented by blue and white shields or bells in horizontal rows. (Cinderella's slippers were made of "vair," not "verre.")

This records the marriage of Sir Thomas Oxenbridge to his second wife, Anne, daughter and co-heiress of William Blount, son of Walter, first Lord Mountjoy, who died 1474. This Sir Walter Blount was grandson of Sir Walter Blount, whose mother was Eleanor Beauchamp, and who married Sancha de Ayala, of the Court of Castille, and was killed in 1403 at the battle of Shrewsbury, in single combat with the Earl of Douglas. Ref.: See Shakespeare's King Henry IV, 1st Part.

The Western window. Three coats of arms.

Centre—Royal Arms (Tudor).

1 and 4 France. 2 and 3 England.

On each side.

Azure, fretty, or, on a quarter azure a wolf's (?) head argent—for *Stokes*.

These two shields are probably those of Henry Stokes (the quarter should, however, be charged with a boar's head), first husband of Anne Oxenbridge, a niece of Sir Goddard Oxenbridge, of Brede, whence the glass is supposed to have been brought and deposited here from Brede Place, when the chapel attached to that place was suffered to fall into ruin.

It was placed at first in a window over the Frewen pew, and on the erection of the Frewen mausoleum was transferred to its present position.

With the exception of the Tudor Arms, all the above glass has been inserted the wrong way round ; so that to read it correctly it is necessary to do so from outside.

For full account of this glass see *Coats of Arms in Sussex Churches*, by Brig.-Gen. Fane Lambarde, C.M.G., D.S.O., in *Sussex Arch. Collections*, Vol. LXVII-VIII.

MODERN STAINED GLASS.

In the West window of the South aisle, in memory of Samuel and Charlotte Pix, executed in 1879, probably by Heaton and Butler ; also in the South aisle a two-light window, executed in 1918 by Kemp in memory of Lt.-Col. Charles Bradford Brown, King's Regt., Capt. Halliburton Laurie, K.O. Regt., and Lt.-Col. G. Laurie, R.I. Rifles.

The low side window in South aisle referred to on page 5 was later opened out under the direction of the writer of this book and after his death filled in with stained glass to his memory.

The beautiful East window above the Sanctuary, installed 1928, is a memorial to Bishop Francis Ambrose Gregory.

There are two "Black Letter" Inscriptions as follows:—Immediately under the Figures:

"In Memory of Francis Ambrose Gregory, sometime
"Bishop of Mauritius and the Seychelles, died January 31,
"1927."

At the bottom of the Window in smaller script:

"Of your Charity pray for all those who of their
"devotion have given their help in the making of this
"Window in the year of Our Lord 1928."

The window at the South East end is in memory of William Forbes Fisher, a former Rector's Warden, and was executed in 1939.

COMMUNION PLATE.

The silver Communion plate belonging to the church, though not very old, is of good workmanship. It consists of an alms-dish, flagon, two patens and two chalices. Of these the finest, entirely hand-wrought, is the larger paten, made in the tenth year of Charles I, *i.e.*, 1634, and bears the simple words, "Ex dono T.F." The alms-dish is inscribed: In honorem Dei Opt. Max. et perpetuum usum Ecclesiae Parochialis B. Marie apud Northiam in Com: Sussex votivum hoc Munusculum Thomas Frewen de Brickwall Arm. unus Custod. ejusdem Ecclesiae D.D.D que A.D. 1724. (To the Honour of Almighty God and for the perpetual use of the Parish Church of St. Mary at Northiam, in the County of Sussex, Thomas Frewen, Esq., of Brickwall, one of the Churchwardens of the said church, presented and dedicated this small votive offering A.D. 1724).

The flagon, larger chalice and smaller paten all bear the Frewen arms and this inscription:—"Dei Gloriam ac servitio Altarissui in Parochiali Ecclesia de Northiam in Com. Sussex me dicabat Thomas Frewen Arm. A.D. 1740.

(Thomas Frewen, Esq., dedicated me to the glory of God and the service of His altar in the Parish Church of Northiam, in the county of Sussex, A.D. 1740).

The smaller chalice now in use was presented by Miss H. Wylde in memory of her sister in the year 1907.

BELLS.

The church possesses a peal of six bells.				WEIGHT.		
NOTE.		INSCRIPTION.		cwt. qr. lb.		
No. 1	D#	{ The gift of sundry benefactors 1734 R. Phelps. T. Lester, Londini fecit.		4	0	15
„ 2	C#			5	0	0
„ 3	D	R. Phelps. London fecit. 1737.		6	1	18
„ 4	A#	R. Phelps. Londini fecit. 1737.		7	2	22
„ 5	G#	R. Phelps. Londini fecit. 1737.		14	3	16
„ 6	F#	Lester & Pack, London fecit 1765.				
Total				48	0	26

The six bells were re-hung ; Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 6 were recast, and the whole ring of six tuned on the 5-tone "Simpson" principle by Messrs. Gillett & Johnston, of Croydon, in 1914.

With regard to the dates given above it is evident that the bells were originally older, as a memorandum in the churchwarden's accounts states that in June, 1721, Mr. Slade was paid for "carrying ye great bell to and from London eleven shillings."

In 1737 Mr. Phelps was paid £21 18s. 0d. for new-casting the bells.

The bells were re-hung and a new metal bell frame installed in 1938 by Maude, Violet and Peter Frewen in memory of Edward, Anne Mary and Thomas Frewen.

FONT.

*The Font, which appears to be a Sicilian Marble Holy Water Basin of modern design, was placed in its present position about 1870. It took the place of an old stone Font which stood in the West Porch, and which was removed during the last "restoration." As in many other similar instances, it has been lost sight of and its fate is unknown.

* This has since been replaced by a copy of an old stone Font, the gift of the late Dr. Batterham.

SCRATCH DIALS ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH.

The South porch bears on its East quoins two primitive sundials known as Scratch dials.

The following notes were communicated by Dr. J. W. Batterham to the February (1926) issue of "Sussex Notes and Queries":

"The lower and better-preserved dial is cut on the South face of a block of ironstone (12 in. by 8 in.) as used in the Norman Tower.

"The hole for the style is 4 feet 3 inches above the ground, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter. No trace of the style remains (usually a peg of oak).

"The incised lines which radiate downwards from the style hole end in a semi-circle of $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in radius. Some ten rays can be traced. Those marking the * "Canonical hours"—prime (sunrise); sext (noon); vespers (before sunset)—are rather more strongly marked, and end in slight pits on the semi-circle.

"The South face of the upper quoin presents a second dial, the style-hole of which is defaced by an iron bar piercing the stone for retentive purposes. Nine rays $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long are traceable, but no semi-circle."

These dials are usually found either by the priest's door into the chancel, or on the South porch, and dials of this type were in general use from the Conquest to the 16th century.

* The Canons which are known as those of Elfric at the end of the 10th Century are most explicit. They direct that the priests and inferior clergy were to be at Church for the seven Canonical Hours, namely :—

Uhtsang, or Prime, about 4 a.m.
 Primesang, or Matins, at 6 a.m.
 Undersang, or Terce, at 9 a.m.
 Middaysang, or Sext, at Midday.
 Nonsang, or Nones, at 3 p.m.
 Efensang, or Vespers,
 and Nightsang, or Nocturns.

By degrees these were restricted for religious houses or monasteries. For Parish Churches the public Services were mostly restricted to Matins before Mass, Mass at 9 a.m., and Evensong. There was Early Morning Mass, called Morrow Mass, for field workers and travellers.

NORTHAM RECTORS.

1287	Hugh de Wengrave	..	Henry III
1303	Jordan Morandi ..	..	Edward I
1318	Robert de Endredeby	..	Edward II
1348	John de Langeport	..	
1375	John Haukherst ..	..	Edward III
1390	Phillip Garton ..	..	Richard II
1403	Richard Topclyff ..	..	Henry IV
1408	Richard Passemer ..	..	"
1408	Richard Barton ..	..	"
1416	Robert Gyger ..	..	Henry V
1417	John Croyland ..	..	"
1426	Hamo Offyngton ..	..	Henry VI
1426	Thomas Brown ..	..	"
1441	William Dene ..	..	"
1441	William Suthby ..	..	"
1445	William Holman ..	..	"
1481	John Wright ..	..	Edward IV
1481	Thomas Olyff ..	..	"
1482	John Idell ..	..	Edward IV
1498	Sir Robert Beuford	..	Henry VII
1533	John Osborne ..	..	Henry VIII
1533	John Man ..	..	"
1541	Henry Mallet ..	..	"

Northiam Rectors (continued).

1551	John Gray	..	..	Edward VI
1554	Owen Mawdisley	..	..	Mary I
1559	Thomas Stunte	..	..	Elizabeth
1576	John Wythers	..	..	"
1583	John Frewen	..	..	"
1628	John Frewen, M.A.	..	..	Charles I
1654	Thomas Frewen	..	..	Charles II
1676	George Barnsley	..	..	"
1692	Thankful Frewen	..	..	William & Mary
1749	William Lord	..	..	George II
1779	William Lord	..	..	George III
1813	Henry Lord	..	..	"
1836	William Edward Lord, D.D.	..	..	William IV
1856	John Octavius Lord	..	..	Victoria
1914	Augustus Frewen Aylward	..	..	George V
1934	Joseph William Dunbar, M.A.	..	..	George V

In closing this brief and incomplete account of the Parish Church I desire to express my grateful thanks to Dr. J. W. Batterham for the assistance he has given me, not only in the matter of the illustrations of the Brasses and details of Glass and Scratch dials, but also for help and advice in correcting the proofs of this little book, the proceeds from the sale of which will be devoted to the repair of the fabric of the Church.

I would also add that I shall be glad to receive corrections or suggestions for improvements for a future issue.

ARTHUR S. HAYNES.

FARTHING, NORTHIAM.

June, 1928.

